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UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

May 27, 1960

LEBANESE WARNED OF NASIR INTERFERENCE

Voice of Free Men, (Clandestine), in Arabic to Egypt and the Arab World,
May 25, 1960, 1800 GMT--E

(Summary) Jamal Abd an-Nasir's hostility toward Lebanon should be attributed to its position as a fortress of freedom obstructing the spread of his influence and domination to other Arab countries. Lebanon's flourishing economy and the complete freedom enjoyed by its people constitute a threat to Nasir's position. He therefore recruits gangsters to commit acts of murder, terrorism, and sedition for the purpose of disturbing the peace in Beirut.

Another reason for Nasir's vindictive attitude toward Lebanon is the presence there of Haj Amin al-Husayni, Grand Mufti of Palestine. Al-Husayni is an influential Arab leader who fought the British and the Zionists for 30 years in Palestine. He lived in Egypt before Nasir's regime. When the dictator came to power he tried to exploit him for furthering his own prestige. The Mufti refused, so Nasir suspended all financial support to him and placed him under constant surveillance. The Cairo press then concentrated attacks on him with a view to casting doubts on his integrity. When the Arab experts conference was held in Lebanon, the Mufti asked Nasir for permission to go to Damascus, and thence managed to cross into Lebanon. Ever since, the Mufti has been warning the Palestinians in Lebanon against Nasir's designs and his special brand of Arab nationalism. There have been two abortive attempts on his life by Nasir's agents in Lebanon.

The dictator is losing his support among the Moslems in Lebanon and on the occasion of the forthcoming general elections, he is willing to spend millions of pounds to secure seats in the Lebanese parliament. To thwart interference in the elections by Egyptian intelligence, the Lebanese interior minister, a former supporter of the dictator, has prohibited the display of Nasir's portrait beside those of his candidates. Until very recently Lebanon was divided between pro-Nasir and anti-Nasir elements, but now the situation has changed. The present elections are being fought on the basis of domestic issues. The leaders in Lebanon have come to realize that Nasir wanted to use them to occupy Lebanon and then dominate Jordan and Iraq. The Maronite patriarch, who wields immense influence in Lebanon, has withdrawn his support for Nasir.

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UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
June 3, 1960

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GANG IN LEBANON SPONSORED BY NASIR

Voice of Free Men (Clandestine), in Arabic to Egypt and the Arab World,
June 2, 1960, 0500 GMT--E

(Summary) The Lebanese security authorities have recently uncovered a gang engaged in espionage, sabotage, and murder. One of its principal aims was the assassination of Haj Amin al-Husayni, Mufti of Palestine, who fled the terrorist regime in Egypt and sought refuge in Lebanon. This gang was under orders to infiltrate Lebanese parties, organizations, and trade unions and its duties included the publication of books and specific articles in Beirut papers. The authorities arrested Kamil Mimar, Hasan Nashshar, and Husni al-Yusif and brought them for trial before the military investigation magistrate in Beirut. The security authorities have proof that the gang had forged registers and seals to provide its members with identity cards under false names.

The Lebanese papers reported that a major Arab state had sponsored this gang. Although no country was mentioned by name, responsibility for this network falls unquestionably on the United Arab Republic, or more precisely, on Nasir. At the gang's headquarters the authorities have seized recording machines and recorded conversations of certain envoys, together with other documents that could have revived the disturbances in Lebanon if they were exploited. The Lebanese papers also blamed most of the incidents in Lebanon on this dangerous network, which acted on directives from Nasir and his agent in Damascus, Abd al-Hamid al-Sarraj. The gang had staged the shooting on the car of former premier Sami as-Suh and exploded a bomb among a church gathering in the Al-Ashrafiyah quarter of Beirut, which resulted in three persons killed and 93 wounded. The gathering included the premier and the Maronite patriarch. The bomb was intended to spark an interracial war between Christians and Moslems in Lebanon.

In 1958 Nasir fomented the disturbances in Lebanon and fed it with millions of pounds at the expense of his impoverished people, with secret broadcasts, seditious leaflets, and bombs. He is the only person who benefits from the return of unrest to Lebanon. Nasir, who dreams of setting up an Arab empire, sees in Lebanon a stumbling block in the way of extending his domination to Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Thanks to the loyalty of its people, Lebanon survived the 1958 ordeal and its newly formed government has proved a disappointment to Nasir's hopes of subservience. A prosperous and free Lebanon cannot but cause anxiety to Nasir, who considers it a thorn in his side. However, Lebanon will stand forever as a rock on which Nasir's intrigues will be dashed.